



IDENTIFYING AND PREVENTING CHILD MALTREATMENT DURING COVID-19

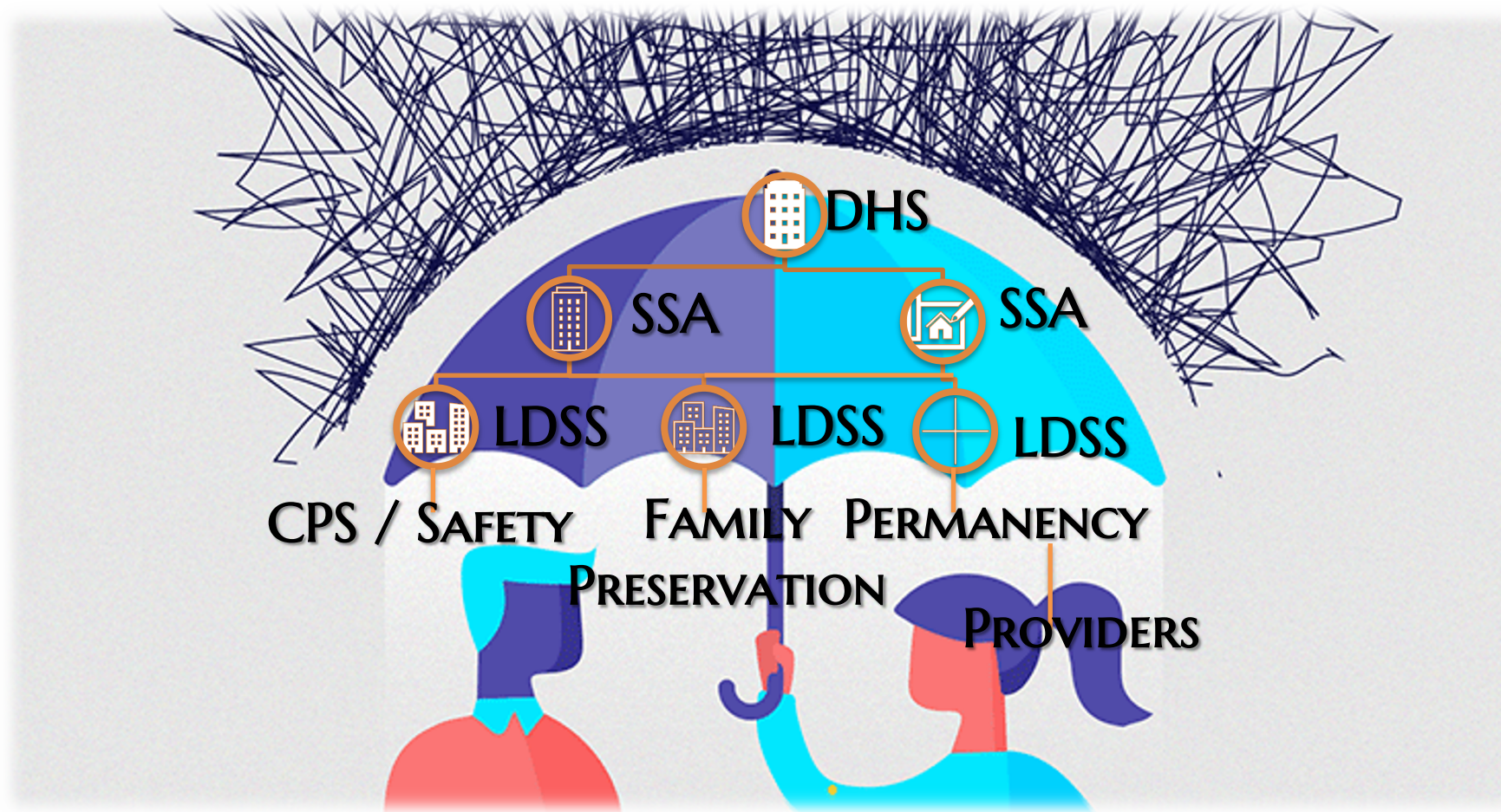
An Overview of Child Maltreatment in a Virtual Society



AGENDA

- Overview of Child Protective Services
- Child Maltreatment Through Virtual Lens
- Protection During COVID-19
- Questions





CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES UMBRELLA



ELIGIBILITY FOR CPS RESPONSE

Without regard to economic circumstances, the following individuals are eligible for a CPS response:

- An alleged victim
- An alleged maltreater
 - Parent/Household/Family members of the alleged victim.
 - Any person who has permanent or temporary care or custody of the child
 - Any person who supervises a child, or otherwise exercises authority over the child through the person's position or occupation.

CHILD MALTREATMENT PREVENTION THROUGH A VIRTUAL LENS



CHILD MALTREATMENT

COMAR 07.02.07.02

- Physical Abuse
- Mental Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect



CHARACTERISTICS OF ABUSE

- Sudden change in behavior
- Not receiving help for physical/medial problems
- Seeming frightened when someone enters the room
- Overly compliant, passive or withdrawn
- Parent displays little concern for child
- Parent demands unrealistic expectations the child cannot achieve
- Negative relationship between parent and child

MENTAL ABUSE

- Child may appear withdrawn, sad, or emotionally unattached to caregivers.
- Caregiver is known or heard to repeatedly blame, belittle, or berate the child.
- Child is aware of and exposed to domestic violence incidents between caregivers.



BEHAVIORAL & EMOTIONAL SIGNS

- Constantly trying to please or attention seeking
- Aggressive, domineering behavior
- Unable to trust people
- Withdrawn
- Telling lies
- Inability to have fun
- Low self-esteem
- Bizarre behavior
- Tantrums (not age appropriate)



SEXUAL ABUSE & CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

Before they turn 18...

1 in 6 boys experience
some form of sexual abuse



1 in 4 girls experience
some form of sexual abuse



POVERTY IS NOT NEGLECT

The presence of poverty alone does not mean a child is unsafe, unloved, or that a parent lacks the capacity to care for his or her child.

Family Poverty is:

- Social issue
- Willing but unable
- Risk factor for neglect, but does not equate to it
- Financial resources and supportive services may help alleviate



OBSERVABLE SIGNS OF NEGLECT

- Child is witnessing illegal substance use by caregivers, and/or has access to unsafe items in the home.
- Child is not being supervised adequately for their age and developmental ability.
- Child's primary needs are not being met
 - Poor hygiene
 - Inadequately clothed
 - Poor nourishment
 - Regular infections
 - Poor motor skills / co-ordination
 - Delay in growth

Community **OUTREACH**



SSA EFFORTS AND OUTREACH DURING COVID-19



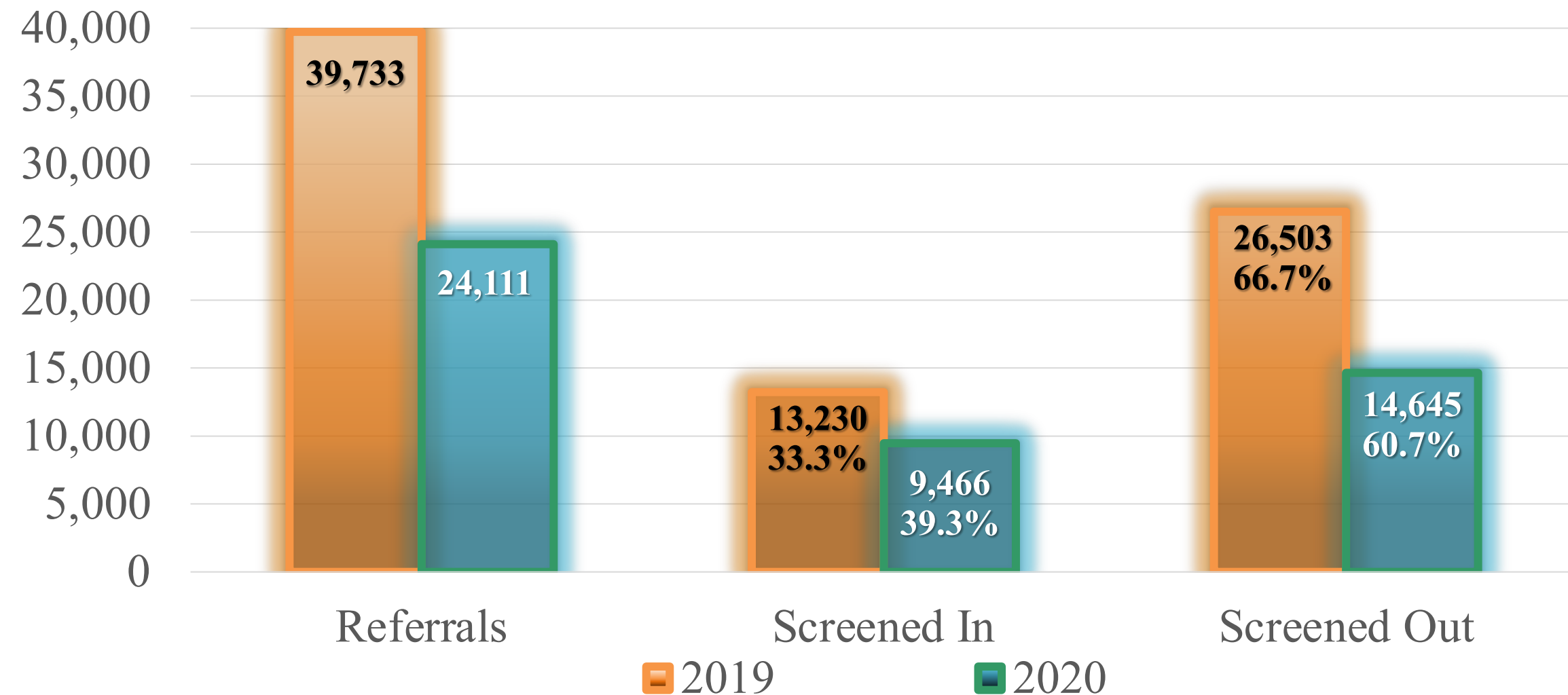
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DURING COVID-19



- CPS workers are screening families for COVID symptoms
- Workers are utilizing PPEs
- Engaging in supportive services outside of the home where confidentiality isn't compromised

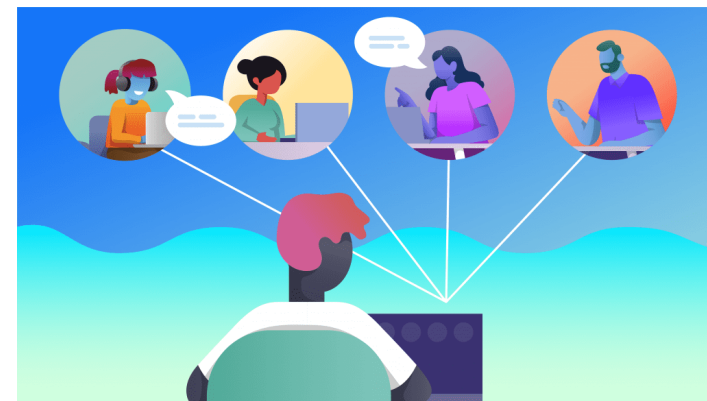


INTAKE SCREENING RESULTS



SSA EFFORTS AND OUTREACH DURING COVID-19

- Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
- Local law enforcement
- Maryland Children's Alliance
- DHS Office of Communications
- MD State Department of Education
- Office of Child Care
- MD Parent Teacher Association (PTA)



SSA EFFORTS AND OUTREACH DURING COVID-19

- MD Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics
- MD Academy of Family Physicians
- National Association of Social Workers (MD-NASW)
- Multidisciplinary workgroups were created to:
 - Identify traditional and creative distribution methods to facilitate the work and share skill building opportunities
 - Identify and review existing resources



WHAT CAN YOU DO

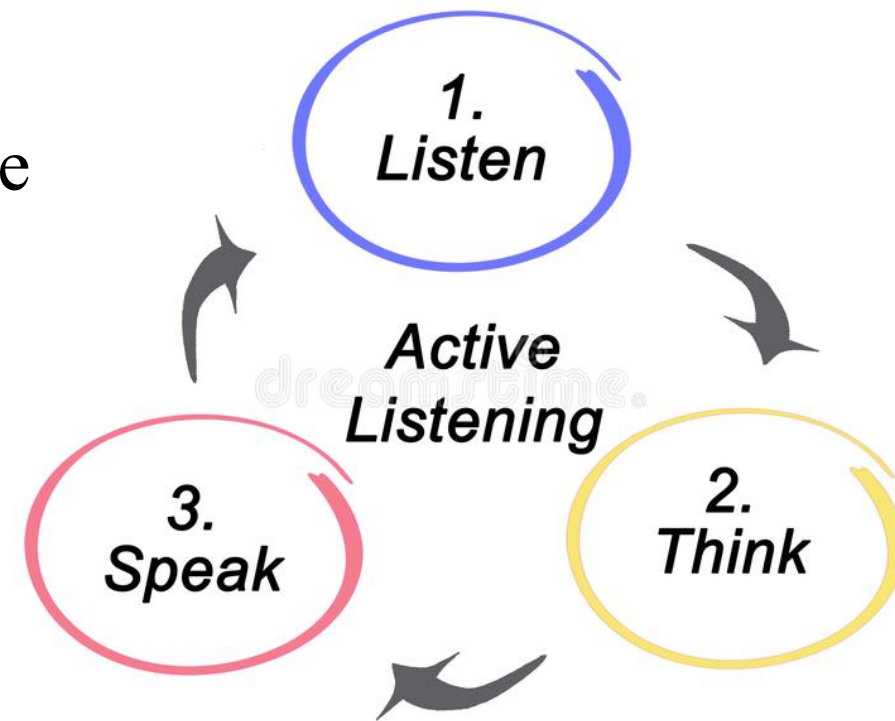
- Ask open-ended questions
- Show concern and empathy
- Make sure it's an OK time to talk
- Find out if there is anything else you should know
- Be prepared to recognize the signs
- Listen
- Let the child know he or she is doing the right thing.
- Make it clear that abuse and neglect is not the child's fault.
- Control your own emotions and remain calm.

WHAT CAN YOU DO

- Do not promise not to tell. You cannot keep this promise. You must keep the child safe by making a report.
- Report the case immediately.
- Keep information confidential and only share information with those who have a need to know.
- Get to know all the school-age children in your care and their families
- Develop respectful communication skills
- Learn about the cultures of the children you serve.

WHAT IF CHILD MALTREATMENT IS DISCLOSED TO YOU

- Regularly Engage with Children and Their Caregivers
- Ask Specific Questions and Be Curious
- Listen, do not make assumptions or interrogate
- Observe the Environment
- Provide a safe environment
- Avoid denial and biases. Reassure the child
- Respect the child's privacy
- Report



REPORTER RIGHTS

MD Fam L Code § 5-708 (2016)

Any person who makes or participates in making a report, an investigation, or a resulting judicial proceeding shall have the immunity from civil liability or criminal penalty.

Confidentiality

Information contained in records or reports concerning child abuse or neglect is protected.



RESOURCES

- **The Family Tree 24-hour Parenting HelpLine:** 1.800.243.7337
- **United Way:** 211
- **Maryland Suicide and Crisis Hotline:** 1.800.784.2433
1.800.273.8255 <http://www.suicidehotlines.com/maryland.html>
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1.800.799.SAFE
<https://www.thehotline.org/>
- **Local Department of Social Services In Home Services:**
<http://dhs.maryland.gov/local-offices/>



RESOURCES

- **Maryland Food Bank: 410.737.8282**
- **Maryland Coalition of Families**
<http://www.mdcoalition.org/get-help-now/crisis-hotline.html>



THANK YOU

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